

## Message Text

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11

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 IO-10

SAM-01 /059 W

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R 171045Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3415

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FOLLOWING SENT ACTION LUSAKA INFO DAR ES SALAAM BLANTYRE  
GABORONE LONDON LOURENCO MARQUES ON 15 DEC REPEATED FOR  
YOU INFO QUOTE

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT: NEW RHODESIAN PRESIDENT

REFERENCE: LUSAKA 2434

1. PRESUME QUESTION REPORTED PARA 3 REFTEL REFERRED TO SEN. JOHN  
WRATHALL'S SUCCESSION OF CLIFFORD DUPONT AS RHODESIAN PRESIDENT.

2. UNDER FIRST POST-UDI CONSTITUTION DUPONT NAMED GOVERNOR BY  
SMITH REGIME. AFTER PROMULGATION OF REPUBLICAN CONSTITUTION IN  
APRIL, 1970, DUPONT ACCEPTED APPOINTMENT FOR FIVE YEAR TERM AS  
RHODESIA'S FIRST PRESIDENT. HE ANNOUNCED SEVERAL MONTHS AGO PLANS  
TO RETIRE AT END OF YEAR. PRESIDENT POSITION LARGELY CEREMONIAL.

3. WRATHALL HAS HELD DIFFICULT JOB AS FINANCE MINISTER SINCE  
1964. APPOINTMENT AS STATE PRESIDENT, UPON COMPLETION OF DUPONT'S  
TERM, VIEWED AS JUST POLITICAL REWARD AND FITTING END TO  
DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC CAREER.

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4. AS ABOVE INDICATES, NEITHER DUPONT'S RETIREMENT AT AGE OF 70

NOR ANNOUNCEMENT OF HIS REPLACEMENT BY WRATHALL CAME AS SURPRISE.  
NOR, DO WE SEE ANY POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE IN CHANGEOVER. OF COURSE,  
WRATHALL'S DEPARTURE FROM CABINET OPENS UP IMPORTANT MINISTERIAL  
POSITION, FILLING OF WHICH MIGHT GIVE SOME INDICATION OF  
RELATIVE STRENGTH AND STATUS OF OTHER MEMBERS OF RHODESIAN FRONT.  
BOWDLER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, PRESIDENT, PERSONNEL RESIGNATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 17 DEC 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975PRETOR04828  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750438-0646  
**From:** PRETORIA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19751231/aaaabbka.tel  
**Line Count:** 67  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 LUSAKA 2434  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 25 JUN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <25 JUN 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <25 AUG 2003 by MorefiRH>  
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**Review Referrals:** n/a  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NEW RHODESIAN PRESIDENT  
**TAGS:** PGOV, RH, (DUPONT, CLIFFORD), (WRATHALL, JOHN)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006